

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. PSYCHOLOGICAL: AS ALREADY NOTED IN ANOTHER CABLE FROM THIS EMBASSY, IT TOOK THE DEFECTION OF A SOVIET PILOT IN A MIG-25 TO BREAK TY MEDIA'S HYPONOTIC FOCUS ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL MAELSTROM KICKED UP BY THE LOCKHEED CASE. EXCEPT FOR THAT, EVERYTHING ELSE REMAINED THE SAME THIS WEEK ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FRONT.

2. PROGRAM.

A. WILLIAM GADDIS: ASP NOVELIST AND WINNER OF THE 1975 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD IN FICTION, WILLIAM GADDIS MADE A GOOD START HERE WITH TWO PROGRAMS AT THE TOKYO AC. WITH 30 ARS ACADEMICIANS, PROFESSIONAL WRITERS AND MEDIA PEOPLE THE FIRST DAY, GADDIS DISCUSSED "LITERATURE AS A NATION'S CONSCIENCE," AND WITH A SIMILAR AUDIENCE OF 40 THE SECOND DAY THE THEME WAS "ONE AMERICAN WRITER." GADDIS PROVED NOT TO BE A POLISHED SPEAKER; AND YET THE CONTENT AND IDEAS HE PRESENTED WITH WARMTH AND HUMANISM WERE VERY GOOD. IN DISCUSSION HE

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WAS FORTHCOMING AND EXPANSIVE; AND IN SUCH INFORMAL SITU-

ATIONS AS THE PROGRAM OFFICER'S DINNER FOR HIM WITH KEY WRITERS, HE WAS EXCELLENT.

B. BEN WATTENBERG: WRITER AND POLITICAL ANALYST BEN WATTENBERG ALSO WAS PROGRAMMED, AS A VOLSPKR, AT THE TOKYO AC IN A SMALL SESSION WITH A MIXED AUDIENCE OF 22 ARS POLITICAL WRITERS AND POLITICAL SCIENTISTS ON THE SUBJECT "CHANGING PUBLIC OPINION AS REFLECTED IN THE ELECTIONS." WATTENBERG WAS CLEAR AND PRECISE IN DISCUSSING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND PREDICTED A VERY CLOSE ELECTION, TQT MIRH BE SWUNG BY THE TV DEBATE. IN SUM, WATTENBERG'S PROGRAM WAS VERY USEFUL FOR UPDATING HIS LISTENERS ON POLITICAL AND OPINION TRNEDS IN THIS CAMPAIGN.

C. ART SHOWS: AFTER A VERY WELL ATTNEDED AND WELL REVIEWED MONTH-LONG RUN IN OSAKA, THE EXHIBIT "AMERICAN ART-THIRD CENTURY" OPENED IN SAPPORO WITH APPROPRIATE FANFARE. AT THE SAME TIME "ART USA--SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA" OPENED IN TOKYO. WITH ANOTHER ART EXHIBIT ABOUT TO OPEN--SEE NEXT WEEK'S REPORT--JAPANESE AUDIENCES WERE GETTING GOOD EXPOSURE TO CURRENT U.S. ART.

D. MEDIA PLACEMENT: THE SEPT. 9 "NIHON KEIZAI" CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH UN AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SCRANTON ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, WHICH WAS ARRANGED BY USIS FOR THE ECONOMIC DAILY DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S STOPOVER IN TOKYO. TY POST ALSO ARRANGED A MEETING FOR HIM WITH TOKYO BASED AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS.

3. HOUSEKEEPING: OVER THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND USIS-TOKYO MOVED INTO QUARTERS IN THE NEW CHANCERY BUILDING. A SHAKEDOWN PERIOD WILL BE REQUIRED TO GET BACK TO EFFICIENT OPERATING SPEED AGAIN, BUT THE ENVIRONMENT IS A VAST IMPROVEMENT OVER THE HALF-CENTURY-OLD MANTETSU BUILDING.
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